

S. Beirut embassy hit by rockets

BEIRUT, April 2 (Agencies)—The U.S. embassy in Beirut was hit by two armour-piercing rockets today, but nobody was hurt, an embassy spokesman said. The spokesman said the rockets were fired from the first and fifth floors of the building on the waterfront. Two rooms were badly damaged, but there was nobody in them at the time. The spokesman said the embassy had received no advance warning of the attack, and nobody had claimed responsibility. Lebanese troops entered the building within minutes of the attack, but there were no other incidents and the spokesman said the embassy would be in for business as usual tomorrow. Later, a group calling itself the Organisation of Arab People said it was responsible for the attack. An anonymous caller read a statement to the newspapers which he said the group, unknown before now, "would hit more strongly at United States interests, agents and all traitors."

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Israel captures commando boat

TEL AVIV, April 2 (R)—The military command announced today that Israeli forces have captured a freighter in the Mediterranean carrying Palestinian commandos on their way to a raid inside Israel. Six commandos and five crew members were detained aboard the 500-ton cargo ship, an army spokesman said. He identified the vessel as the Stelanie, registered in Cyprus. The military spokesman said large quantities of arms and ammunition were found aboard the freighter, which was intercepted "somewhere near Israel's northern region." He would not say when the ship was seized. Just over a year ago, in March 1978, an 11-strong commando unit landed on Israel's Mediterranean shore, hijacked a bus and killed about 40 Israelis during a gun battle with security forces. Since then the Israelis say they have foiled at least two further attempts by commandos to land from the sea - one in the Gulf of Aqaba and the other in the Mediterranean.

Page 4, Number 1022

AMMAN, TUESDAY APRIL 3, 1979 — JAMADI AL AWAL 5, 1399

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Syria warns:

Supporting treaty affects relations with Arab World

SCUS, April 2 (R)—Syria today that support for the Israeli peace treaty by the Arab world would adversely affect its relations with the Arab World.

The Tripoli government did not consider this to be interference in Egypt's internal affairs as "the Arab revolution is one movement, which must be supported wherever it shows its existence."

The official said his government did not plan a unilateral oil boycott against the United States or other countries which had welcomed the bilateral Israeli-

Egyptian treaty. But if Arab oil exporters decided on a boycott—then the Jamahiriya would join them.

The Libyan Jamahiriya believed the peace treaty would last only as long as President Sadat, the official said, and he predicted that the Egyptian leader would be overthrown before the end of this year.

"Then Israel and Egypt will use the U.S. weapons against each other," he said.

Troops, Turkoman tribes battle despite ceasefire

GONBAD KAVUS, Iran, April 2 (R)—Hundreds of Iranian troops dug in around this key town near the Soviet border tonight as pro-government militiamen battled with Turkoman tribesmen despite an announced ceasefire.

Heavy automatic rifle-fire and the steady pounding of grenade launchers could be heard at 6 p.m. (1430 GMT) —two hours after Iran Radio announced that the two sides had stopped fighting.

At least eight army Scorpion tanks and many armoured per-

sonnel carriers moved into position around this small north-eastern market town, their guns pointed towards its ancient funeral tower in the heart of the Turkoman area, local militia chiefs said.

The militiamen said they had lost 50 troops in the fighting so far and estimated that 150 Turkoman guerrillas had died.

But with bodies still lying in the three-lined streets and ambulances unable to drive through the no-man's-land between the militia and Turkoman district, independent confirmation of this figure was impossible.

Both sides appeared to be ignoring the latest ceasefire in the rebellion by tribesmen seeking greater self-rule. Several truces had been proclaimed by the radio last week, but the fighting went on nevertheless.

Today's ceasefire was supposed to have gone into effect at 4 p.m. one hour after a deadline set yesterday by the government in Tehran. It threatened army intervention unless the shooting stopped by then.

But soon after the start of the announced ceasefire, never confirmed by the Turkoman side, Islamic guards and Turkoman tribesmen started pounding each other with grenade launchers.

Hundreds of troops and Islamic militia were dug in around Gonbad Kavus tonight. Men in steel combat helmets trained their rifles on every car entering the town.

Amin ready to make 'last stand' against rebels

NAIROBI, April 2 (Agencies)—President Idi Amin drove into Jinja in eastern Uganda after it was bombed by Tanzanian jets today and said he would make a last stand in the town against rebel invaders.

A foreign resident of Jinja, Uganda's second biggest city, told Reuters by telephone that he heard President Amin tell people clustered round his vehicle that he was ready to die there.

Tanzanian jets attacked the capital, Kampala, as well as Jinja. Diplomatic sources in Nairobi said they might have struck also at other targets.

At least one woman was reported killed in Jinja where a Libyan bank in the city centre and military installations were hit.

The air raids were in retaliation for a bombing strike by a Uganda-based Libyan Tupolev bomber on the Tanzanian airbase at Mwanza on the southern edge of Lake Victoria on Thursday.

Several MIGs yesterday struck at Uganda's international airport at Entebbe. The airport was reported back in operation today.

In the Ugandan capital Kampala, residents reported columns of black smoke pouring from an oil tank in a western industrial suburb after shooting had been heard early this morning. It was not known who was involved in the fighting.

The residents said the Tanzanian army and Ugandan exile force positioned on the hills southwest of Kampala had not moved on the capital.

Diplomatic sources said Libyan troops now in the front line facing the Tanzanians had remodelled Kampala's defences. Because of this, the sources said, the invaders may be forced into a long-term strategy of encircling Kampala and cutting its food and munitions supply lines rather than attempting a frontal assault on the capital.

In Tripoli, a senior Libyan official said today the Libyan Jamahiriya will not abandon President Amin in his hour of difficulty. But the official declined to comment on reports of active Libyan involvement in Uganda and said he had no news on the military situation in the country.

In Dar Es Salaam, an official spokesman said Tanzanian Prime Minister Edward Sokaite and Foreign Minister Ben Mkapa met in Kenya this weekend with President Daniel Arap Moi. The meeting was said to deal with the passage of military supplies to Uganda through Kenya.

In Belgrade, the daily newspaper Politika said in a report from its correspondent in Kampala today that Tanzanian-backed forces damaged a Ugandan Boeing 707 airliner by shelling Entebbe airport. But transport planes bringing war material to the Ugandan government side continued landing there, according to the report sent yesterday by its correspondent.

Besides Libya, Sudan also had helped Ugandan President Idi Amin, the report said, but gave no details of the Sudanese aid.



AMMAN, April 2 (J.T.)—Jordan's Ambassador to Cairo, Mr. Zouqan At Hindawi, returned here Saturday following a government decision implementing the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab foreign and economy ministers conference. In a press statement at Amman airport, Mr. Hindawi said: "It is a tragedy that Cairo should reject 20 Arab ambassadors, while at the same time roll out the red carpet to receive the Israeli Prime Minister who masterminded the massacres of Deir Yassin and the school of Bahr Al Baqar in Egypt." It is clear, the Ambassador added, that since a long time ago, the Egyptian president "embarked on attempts to break away from the Arabs, and cooperate with Israel." His Majesty King Hussein has exerted continued efforts to dissuade Sadat from pressing forward with his plans, and "instead of complying, the Egyptian president arrogantly signed the treaty of shame and capitulation with the enemy," the ambassador added. Mr. Hindawi further expressed his conviction that "Sadat's attempts to uproot Egypt and alienate it from its destiny and history are doomed to failure." The policy of the Egyptian president compelled the Arab foreign ministers to adopt sanctions against Egypt. He sincerely hopes that these sanctions will pave the road for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold," the ambassador said. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today summoned the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman and informed him of the Jordanian government's decision to sever all political and diplomatic ties with Egypt as of yesterday. The Jordanian government's decision was announced at the end of a five and a half hour cabinet meeting yesterday during which the cabinet reviewed the recommendations and resolutions passed at the Baghdad Conference.

Harrisburg nuclear plant hydrogen bubble reduced

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, April 2 (R)—A hydrogen bubble threatening to cause an explosion at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant has been significantly reduced, company officials said today.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Edison Company, which operates the nuclear plant in nearby Middletown, said the bubble of gases trapped at the top of the reactor core "was reported to be significantly reduced early this morning."

Continued growth of the bubble, which is composed of hydrogen, oxygen and xenon, had raised the threat of an explosion in the worst commercial nuclear accident ever to occur in the United States.

There was no confirmation of the company's report from the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Earlier today scientists said they hoped to carry out a critical operation aimed at reducing the risk of a possible explosion, which though non-nuclear, could scatter radioactive debris over a wide area.

The scientists reported that the plant, damaged last Wednesday when a cooling system failed, was beginning to cool down.

State officials were preparing plans to evacuate 24,000 people from a five miles radius of the plant. If the situation warranted it, the figure could go as high as 637,000 people from a 20 miles radius.

President Carter, reflecting the anxiety felt by millions of Americans over the leak, said on a flying visit to the plant yesterday that health and safety should be the main concern. "If we make an error, it should be on the side of caution and safety," he said.

The U.S. government's chief scientist at the plant, Harold Denton of the NRC admitted that the hydrogen bubble problem had not been anticipated in designing the reactor.

Waldheim urges calling USSR into ME peace process

VIENNA, April 2 (R)—United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said today that it was up to Egypt, Israel and the United States to bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Waldheim, speaking in a television interview, said "I can only say that I am sorry the Soviet Union has shown itself negative towards this (Egypt-Israel) treaty."

"The Soviet Union is not ready to accept something in which it did not take part. It is up to the United States, Egypt and Israel to open the door again."

The secretary-general said he was sceptical about the treaty "because there is nothing substantial about the central question, the Palestinians, and nothing concrete about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Dr. Waldheim reiterated that the Geneva Middle East peace conference, co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union, should be reconvened. "But I do not think such a conference can be called tomorrow. I am under no illusions."

He said he expected the Soviet Union's participation in the peace process to be pursued through bilateral and diplomatic channels.

Begin gets low-key reception in Cairo

CAIRO, April 2 (R)—Menachem Begin today became the first Israeli premier to visit Cairo, flying in to a low-key reception and strict security that kept him largely isolated from the people.

Most of the Egyptian cabinet and senior military personnel were at the airport as he was welcomed by Vice-President Hosni Mubarak and heard the Israeli national anthem played for the first time on Egyptian soil. President Anwar Sadat was not on hand but protocol did not require his presence.

Another notable absentee from the ceremony was Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, who was officially reported to be engaged in "other important business." But he himself said he was unwell.

Also absent were Arab ambassadors, most of whom had left Egypt by today in response to an Arab boycott of Egypt.

However Mr. Begin looked happy during visits to the Pyramids, to Cairo's main synagogue for prayer and to the tomb of Egypt's unknown soldier to lay a wreath.

Also at the airport to greet Mr. Begin was Mr. Felix Ishaki, leader of the small 500-strong Jewish community in Egypt.

The Israeli flag, the Star of David, was hoisted at the airport only shortly before Mr. Begin's arrival and there were no flags along the route.

All approaches to the airport and along the route to the Tahera Palace outside Cairo where Mr. Begin will be staying during his 28-hour visit were closed to normal traffic and heavily guarded.

Mr. Begin was whisked to the palace in a closed black limousine surrounded by motorcycle outriders. The motorcade touched 100 kilometres an hour as it sped away.

Dr. Khalil, contacted later at his home about his airport absence, said: "I am not feeling well. I am resting at home for three days. I've been at home since yesterday."

The places visited by Mr. Begin were virtually deserted as police cleared all approaches, leaving only heavily-armed security forces at the scene.

At the Pyramids he told reporters: "I came to Cairo to say Salam (peace) to the great Egyptian people. We are going to be friends and help each other."

"A new era will, I believe, be opened after the courageous act carried out by your president, with the help of President Carter." He said he hoped that "in God's good time" the rest of the Middle East would join the peace-making process.

At the tomb of the unknown soldier, Mr. Begin laid two wreaths. An Israeli official said the first was from Mr. Begin personally and the second from him in his capacity as prime minister.

Next to the memorial was a

huge poster inscribed in Arabic "Allahu Akbar", the war cry of Egyptian forces when they stormed across the Suez Canal in 1973.

At the 4,500-year-old Giza Pyramids, apart from speaking seriously of his hopes for a broader Middle East settlement, Mr. Begin also conceded that his ancestors did not, as he had stated in the past, help build them. "I don't think so, it is another period in history," he said.

He had his first meeting with Mr. Sadat since they signed the peace treaty a week ago when he attended a formal dinner in his honour.

Tomorrow he visits the Cairo museum with its vast collection of Pharaonic treasures and then has formal talks with Mr. Sadat. After a private lunch, he leaves for home at 4 p.m.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin reviewing an Egyptian guard of honour upon arrival at Cairo Airport Monday. (AP wirephoto)

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Regional Briefs

April 2 (R)—Informed Egyptian sources said today that a military attaché at the Soviet embassy in Cairo had asked to leave the country for spying, but the report could not be confirmed. The Egyptian foreign ministry refused comment and the Soviet embassy said: "We are neither denying nor confirming. The embassy does not normally give this kind of information." The Egyptian sources said the attaché was asked yesterday for obtaining information about Egypt's military up along its border with the Libyan Jamahiriya. The attaché declined to name the attaché. The Egyptian diplomatic mission two assistant military attaches, Col. Youri Doulenko commander Youri Pererever.

April 2 (R)—Saudi Arabia will help Lebanon to re-establish control over South Lebanese territory and stabilise it, Prime Minister Salim Hoss said today. The Lebanese was speaking to reporters on his return from a short visit of Arabia during which he discussed questions of mutual interest and Middle East developments, including the signing of Egyptian-Israeli separate peace treaty. Dr. Hoss said Saudi Arabia had affirmed they would extend all possible help to Lebanon's efforts to regain control over South Lebanon with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

April 2 (R)—The Greek Catholic Archbishop, Hilarion, who served three years of a 12-year sentence in an jail for gun-running for Palestinian commandos, had a short today with religious revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini in the holy city of Gom. Iran Radio said. The archbishop was released from prison in Israel in 1977, under an agreement between the Vatican and the Israeli government. He was assigned as "visitor" to the Melchite communities in Amman, but returned recently to the Middle East allegedly without Vatican permission. While in Israel, he was formerly high vicar to the Greek Catholic Melchites in occupied Golan.

April 2 (R)—Some 27 members of the Iraqi armed forces have been detained on suspicion of trying to form a cell, a leader of the country's ruling Ba'ath Socialist Party in an interview. Naim Haddad, a member of the Ba'ath Party, was quoted by the London-based Arabic language Al-Dustour as saying Iraqi law would be applied against them if they were found guilty. The disclosure of the recent arrests amid a government crack-down on the Iraqi Communist CP, one of the few such parties officially sanctioned in the world.

April 2 (AP)—The fire at the offshore oil well near the Abu Ali continued for the second day Monday and Saudi Deputy Oil Minister said foreign experts have been helped put it out. Deputy Oil Minister Fahd Abal Kbeil said the fire would not affect the daily production of Aramco, the giant U.S.-American oil consortium responsible for exploiting the almost exclusively, even though it may take weeks to shut the blaze. Abu Ali island is 40 kilometres northeast of the industrial city of Jubail, on the eastern coast of Saudi between Kuwait and Bahrain.

April 2 (Agencies)—Abu Dhabi announced a surcharge averaging 12 per cent to the price of its oil, raising the cost of its top quality crude to \$18.39 per barrel. The new price is about 25 per cent higher than the base \$14.542 per barrel that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), agreed last week should go into effect April 1. The OPEC meeting at Geneva allowed individual producers to add their own surcharges to the base price. Yesterday increased the price of its oil by almost nine per cent, in conformity with the OPEC decision. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said in Geneva that his country would impose a 1.20 dollar-a-barrel surcharge on top of higher prices as from today. Kuwait produces an average of 1.2 million barrels of crude a day.

Selected schools to double as rec. centres

By Breda Finegan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 2—Starting June 1, Jordanian children are going to be seeing a lot more of their schools than they used to. Following a decision by the Ministry of Education, selected schools throughout the country will be reopening their doors during the afternoon for children to use as recreational centres.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, the secretary of the Jordan National Committee for International Year of the Child (JNCIYC), told the Jordan Times today that the schools will provide supervised activities for children who are roughly between six and 12 years of age although 12 should not be regarded as a compulsory age limit.

of schools in his governorate which he thinks would best serve as recreational centres. This will be decided largely by the number of children any one school can serve. Large, well equipped schools in heavily populated areas are most likely to be chosen to serve all the children in that locality.

The director of the Karak district has already recommended that 27 schools be used as recreational centres for the Karak Governorate.

Afternoon activities at the schools will include sports, art, reading and games, and teachers will be paid overtime to supervise the children.

Dr. Jaradat stressed that it would not be organised as rigidly as morning classes and that often the teacher would do little more than help a child who asked to do so, organise games and generally see that the children are using the time constructively.

The Ministry of Education will be issuing guidelines to the teachers for the conduct of the afternoon sessions but these need not be used if the teachers are imaginative.

The JNCIYC will provide the schools chosen as recreational centres with playground equipment and extra books, games and art materials, so that the schools need only provide the premises and the staff.

The recreational centres will probably be open to children between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.



Although opening of schools for children in the afternoon is part of the Ministry of Education's contribution to International Year of the Child, Dr. Jaradat said this measure would be adopted as a permanent policy of the ministry.

The director of education in each district in Jordan has already been asked to assess the number

National News Roundup...

Multiservice financial co. to be set up in 3 months

AMMAN, April 2 (J.T.)—The subject of establishing a Jordanian firm to deal with securities and other financial instruments was discussed at a meeting held in the Central Bank here today. The planning for the new company was initiated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) which has undertaken the creation of similar companies in 52 countries. The company is to offer a wide spectrum of financial services, especially to the private sector. Taking part in the meeting were representatives of Jordanian banks, credit corporations, insurance companies and money changers. They elected a constituent assembly comprising representatives of these organisations to pursue necessary steps for the establishment of the company in three months.

Regulations for labourers set up

AMMAN, April 2 (JNA)—The employment of Jordanian labourers in Arab states and the employment of Arab and foreign labourers in Jordan was the topic for discussion at a meeting held at the Ministry of Labour's employment department here today. At the meeting chaired by Minister of Labour Issam 'Al-Jouni it was agreed that the Jordanian government will coordinate with Arab embassies here on issuing of visas to Jordanians wishing to work in Arab countries. This will be similar to coordination procedures already in force between Jordan on the one hand and Libya and Saudi Arabia on the other. All Jordanian labourers will be prevented from leaving the country unless their passports bear a statement from the employment department giving them permission to travel, department head Mansour 'Ismail said after the meeting. The department will appoint inspectors to make sure that the employment of foreigners in Jordan is carried out through proper legal channels, he added.

Industrial Development Bank makes two loans

AMMAN, April 2 (JNA)—The board of the Industrial Development Bank has agreed to give two loans worth JD 315,000; the first for expanding a matchbox plant and the second for setting up a plant to provide school scrap books, both of which projects are expected to realise an annual income of JD 33,200.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Book Exhibit

The Goethe Institute presents an exhibition of children's books, in German and English, at the Preparatory Boy's School No. 1 at Zarqa Camp. The exhibit is in commemoration of the International Year of the Child.

Children's Films

The Goethe Institute is showing a film for children at Zarqa Camp. It is entitled "The Flying Classroom" (in German with Arabic subtitles), and starts at 3:30 p.m.

Documentary Films

The French Cultural Centre presents two documentaries on life in the oceans, starting at 5:30 p.m. The first is "Le vol du pingouin" and the second is "La plongée en grande profondeur."

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

are having a demonstration of

THE KWON DO

(Korean art of self-defence)

on Wednesday, 4th April, 10:00 a.m. at the British Embassy Club. Toddlers not allowed. School children welcome.

Coffee morning - Wednesday, 18th April, same time, same place. Toddlers and babies very welcome.

Jordan helped heal Arab split in Baghdad, Badran tells NCC

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 2 — Jordan moved quickly to heal differences which arose during the recent Arab foreign and economic ministers meeting in Baghdad and was instrumental in deciding sanctions against Egypt for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel, Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the National Consultative Council today.

In a full report on the government's position, Mr. Badran told the 60-member council that, following Camp David, Jordan had submitted 12 questions to President Carter's administration regarding the nature of the Middle

Prince Hassan back from East Asian trip

AMMAN, April 2 (JNA)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Monday via Aqaba following an eleven-day tour which took him to India, Indonesia and Malaysia. Returning with His Highness were Education Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan, and several other officials.

During his tour Prince Hassan explained to his hosts the phases of the Palestinian cause, and the dangers of the Israeli settlement policy which is aimed at swallowing up the Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem. He also pointed out the dangers to which the Islamic holy shrines are subjected, and briefed the officials in the three countries Jordan's accomplishments in the economic, social and educational fields.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency (JNA), the minister of education said that Prince Hassan was accorded a warm welcome in Indonesia, a country which sympathises with us and supports our positions. What gratified us was people's adherence to Islam, and their interest to learn Arabic, the Minister added.

This visit, which opens possibilities of cooperation with brotherly nations, makes us aware of the size of the responsibility which we have to shoulder in supporting education, particularly of Arabic and Islamic studies in Indonesia and Malaysia.

East peace drive.

He said the U.S. answers were unsatisfactory, and Jordan realised from the start that a separate peace treaty was being arranged.

Washington's answers were "broadly indicative that attempts were being made to single out Egypt for a separate agreement with Israel," he said.

The prime minister, who noted during his speech that "Jordan today finds itself at the centre of Arab resistance" to machinations against the Arab nation, said in reply to a question by a council member that disturbances at the University of Jordan over the last three days had been caused by saboteurs in the pay of Zionists.

Over the past few months, Mr. Badran said, the Carter administration made several contacts with Jordan and dispatched several American officials to Amman in an attempt to sound out the Jordanian position and... if possible lure Jordan into joining the negotiations, the prime minister said.

He added the last of these officials was U.S. presidential adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski who came after the announcement by the American president that Israel and Egypt had reached agreement to sign the separate peace treaty.

His Majesty King Hussein reiterated to Mr. Brzezinski Jordan's firm position towards the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, meaning the participation of all parties concerned in the talks, and that peace should be based on full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem, the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their rights to determine their own future on its home land, Mr. Badran said.

The prime minister said the Jordan University students had organised peaceful rallies to express their opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and to voice their support for the government and the policy of His Majesty King Hussein with regard to the separate peace treaty, but subversive elements and agents hired by the Zionists had infiltrated the ranks of loyal youths and tried to disrupt their noble march and divert it into dangerous regional factionalism working against the interests of the Arab nation.

He added that Israeli agents were at work, and the government would not be lenient with them.

During the NCC session, Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar spoke about the blast at the explosives depot at Um Al Basatin on March 21 in which 16 people were killed and 38 wounded.

He said the military governor general had set up a technical committee to investigate and determine the causes of the explosion. The committee has ruled out the possibility of sabotage, he said.

Afterwards the Prime Minister said that King Khaled of Saudi Arabia has donated JD 100,000 in aid of those affected by the explosion, many citizens made private contributions and the Jordanian government will cover the rest of the cost of compensating the victims after carrying out a comprehensive study of all damages sustained.

The government will beco forth ban the sale of explosive materials by private individuals or firms.

All quantities of explosives now available will be stored at army warehouses and will be sold to the

private sector for use in quarries, roads and other projects, Mr. Badran said. He pointed out that the government will purchase the available quantities of explosive materials and will not confiscate them.

Also speaking at today's session was Minister of Transport Ali Subeimat, who gave details of the crash of the Alia Boeing in Qatar on March 13.

He said a multinational committee was formed to investigate the crash at the request of the Qatari government.

He said the committee's findings revealed that the crash was due to a violent storm which aircraft was exposed to at a latitude of 500 feet as it was approaching its landing strip number 34 at Doha's international airport.

He said the report revealed that the radar system at the airport was not operative at the time and the control tower could not give details about the weather based on radar detection. Instructions given to the pilot by the control tower were based on vision and not on the radar system, Mr. Subeimat said.

Iraq to import additional JD 4m. annually from Jordan

AMMAN, April 2 (JNA)—The main resolutions passed at the meeting of Arab economic ministers that ended in Baghdad on Saturday were a total halt of Arab aid to Egypt and suspension of Egypt's membership in various Arab economic and trade activities, Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Nijmeddin Dajani said today on his return here from the conference.

During his stay in Baghdad, Dr. Dajani held economic and trade talks with Iraqi government officials and signed trade protocols between Jordan and Iraq.

The Iraqi government has decided to increase its imports of Jordanian products by JD 4 million annually through the Jordanian commercial centre in Baghdad, Dr. Dajani said.

He said representatives of Iraqi trade and economic organisations will shortly visit Jordan to discuss ways of further increasing the volume of trade exchanged between the two countries, and, as a result,

it is expected that Iraq will become the biggest importer of Jordanian products, especially phosphate.

The Iraqi government has granted Jordanian agricultural products priority for marketing in Iraq, and a Jordanian delegation will visit Iraq this month to present a list of agricultural products that can be exported to Iraq, the minister added.

Status of Egyptians in Jordan not to change

AMMAN, April 2 (R)—Interior Minister Suleiman Arar said yesterday the government's treatment of Egyptians working in Amman would remain unchanged. He said nothing would be changed concerning residence and employment facilities.

There are about 10,000 Egyptian workers in Jordan.

He made his statement only one day after Arab foreign and economic ministers decided at their summit meeting in Baghdad to impose sanctions against Egypt for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will continue to be warm, dry and dusty at times, with southerly moderate winds. In Aqaba it will be dusty with southerly moderate winds and rough seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	low 17	high 34
Aqaba	24	38
Deserts	20	37
Jordan Valley	22	38



Mrs. Nicholas Velotes, wife of the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, presented a gift of JD 233 to brownie scout Kathleen McMahon and girl scout Melanie Burnett (R) at the Marine House on Wednesday. The money, raised by the marines through the sale of raffle tickets, is to be divided equally between the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America in Jordan. After the presentation ceremony the marines served cake and soda pop to the scouts.

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Ms. CINDY HILL, U.S. Taxpayer Assistor, will visit Amman from April 3 to April 7 in order to aid U.S. Citizens with Tax problems and answer questions concerning taxation. Ms. Hill will be available in the consulate to answer special questions on a first come, first served basis, from 1000 to 1600 on April 4, from 1100 to 1600 on April 5, and in the commercial office downtown from 0900 to 1300 on April 7.

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Righting the balance

WHEN THE ARAB World shows its unity and strength, the rest of the world looks harder for signs of disunity and weakness. So it was with last week's Baghdad conference, which produced a practical and logical formula for confronting Egypt's defiant act of apostasy in signing the self-out treaty with Israel.

No one pretends that it is easy for the Arab family to evict and shun one of its members. But distinctions are quite rightly being made between the Egyptian people — including the hundreds of thousands living and working in other Arab countries — and the Egyptian official policy pursued so recklessly by President Sadat.

It was that policy which allowed the Israeli flag to fly over Cairo last night, even while Israel maintains its deadly grip on the occupied Arab homeland and sends still more settlers out to colonise it. It was that Egyptian policy which is bosting, as part of Mr. Begin's delegation, the man, Ben Elissar, who has drafted a plan for the ultimate annexation of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, which is to be carried out under the guise of the phoney Camp David "autonomy" programme.

It is the aim of the present Arab diplomatic offensive to undo these policies before they can poison forever the atmosphere out of which the true spirit of peace must come. It is also the aim of this offensive to see to it that the Egyptian people are not trampled in their leader's rush to embrace the Israeli occupiers.

As a Kuwaiti minister has said: "Differences among Arab governments have nothing to do with relations among Arab peoples... The Arab ministers decided that every assistance should be accorded to the Egyptian people and their feelings should be respected." That is why their interests, as well as broader Arab interests, must be safeguarded. This can only be done by exposing, isolating and correcting the mistakes that have been made. Only then can we set about redressing the Middle East balance that has been so dangerously upset by these machinations. After Baghdad, we should be optimistic about our capacity to do so.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

COMMENTING ON the visit which Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is paying to Cairo, AL RA'Y Saturday says that Begin is going to Egypt as a conqueror, not a visitor.

What we fear most, the paper continues, is that the Mufti of Egypt, the Sheikh of Al Azhar and the Awqaf Minister, will be among the rest of Sadat's top aides and ministers offering their allegiance to Begin at the reception ceremony.

We hope, that Begin will not allow himself to be deceived by the warmth of the sumptuous reception, and learn that the Egyptians, who previously received Napoleon Bonaparte and his successor General Kleber, were the same ones who supported Salah Al Din Al Ayyoubi in his campaigns to cleanse Palestine from the south to the north.

Undoubtedly the Israeli generals have scrutinised the history of Egypt, and learned that a young Syrian named Salim Al Halabi was the one who killed the successor of Napoleon. The history of Egypt is long and eventful; it did not begin today, nor will it end with Begin's visit, no matter how hard Sadat tries to divert its course, the paper concludes.

Following the normalisation of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the visit by Menahem Begin to Cairo, AL DUSTOUR says that for the Arabs to protect themselves against future eventualities, it is incumbent upon them to impose strict censorship on everything that originates from Egypt, be it books, movies, goods, people or whatever.

Sadat is the one to blame for the severing of Arab relations with Egypt and the deterioration of the state of affairs to its present level the paper says. The paper further believes that the Egyptian perspective on the present situation is turned up side down. To prove this, the paper says that "the Egyptian Cabinet yesterday issued a statement denouncing the Baghdad Conference resolutions as null, void and illegitimate. Why? Simply because they constitute a violation of the Arab League Charter which guarantees the rights of the member states, and prohibits the intervention by one state in the affairs of another."

In other words, the paper adds, the Egyptian regime considers breaking away from the Arabs a legitimate act consistent with the Arab League charter. At the same time it regards any Arab retaliation calculated to safeguard the Palestinian rights and save face for the Arabs as illegitimate and not in harmony with the Arab League Charter.

Sadat has sold out Jerusalem, turned his back on the Arabs and appointed himself to negotiate with Israel on behalf of all Arabs without being authorised by any one. Does this not constitute an intervention in Arab and Palestinian affairs, or is it simply a sovereign Egyptian right? The paper asks.

Truly, Egypt's view is completely twisted so arguing with the Sadat regime would be like arguing with the deaf, the paper concludes.

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مكتبة منة الله

Damask: 'Endangered species'?

Text by Pat McDonnell
Photos by Samir Twei

Special to the Jordan Times

DAMASCUS, April 2--Historical records, romantic poems and travelers' journals have over the centuries mentioned damask brocades, silks and satins. An indication that the name of the Syrian capital became synonymous with the finest fabrics in the world is that the most elegant wedding gift a Victorian bride could ask for was a damask table cloth.

Twentieth century technology has, however, endangered the future of this prized Damascus commodity.

That is not to say silk will no longer be manufactured in Damascus. Fabrics woven on electric looms--which more often than not are of synthetic silk threads--will continue to be produced in Syria. However, the only remaining factory in Syria which turns out hand-loomed pure silk yardage is Beit Nassan located at Bab Sharki, the eastern gate of the old city.

"Ten years ago 375 employees were working in our silk factory and mother-of-pearl and wood mosaic furniture shop," said a company spokesman, "today we have a total of 62 employees." In 1969 the factory employed 28 men on 14 hand looms, today four men work at two looms. In five years, the Nassan family fully expects its silk producing days to be over.

"We no longer can find young men who are willing or patient enough to learn the art of working a hand loom," the spokesman said. "We pay by the metre of silk produced, not by the hour. A man can weave up to three metres a day at the rate of 18 Syrian pounds per metre--which isn't a bad wage in Damascus."

"In the past, we produced over 30 designs, today we only use five designs. The most popular is the 'Love Bird' pattern which the Syrian Government commissioned us to create as a gift to Queen Elizabeth II on her coronation."

Pointing to one of the two hand-loom still in operation, the spokesman commented they are relatively new, being only 50 years old. Older looms had up to eight foot pedals resulting in the weaver operating the loom much like a pipe organ.

Beit Nassan is one of the musts on any tourist's itinerary for Damascus. The factory lies outside the walls of the old city, but the adjacent two-storey residence of the Nassan family is within the city walls and is therefore a cultural property that falls under the protection of the Syrian Department of Museums and Antiquities.

The house was already 115 years old when Selim Nassan purchased it in 1866. Eight generations have since lived in the house and managed the factory. The residence is a showplace which the family opens for special parties. Notables who have been entertained here include the Aga Khan and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Visitors entering through the factory can observe demonstrations of how the silk is woven. "Not only do we use only pure natural silks, but we use only vegetable dyes so the silk can be hand laundered," the spokesman said. "Hand looms don't have the stress and tension that on high-powered electric looms calls for chemicals and glues to strengthen the threads to prevent them from breaking. Therefore, you can say the silk we're producing today is the same quality as it was 100 years ago."

The result can be seen in the wrinkle-free quality of the silk which even when twisted, knotted and pulled unfolds with a flick of the wrist--miraculously without a crease.

"There still are a few Kurdish

families in the Mohagarine area of Damascus who work on hand-loom," the spokesman said.

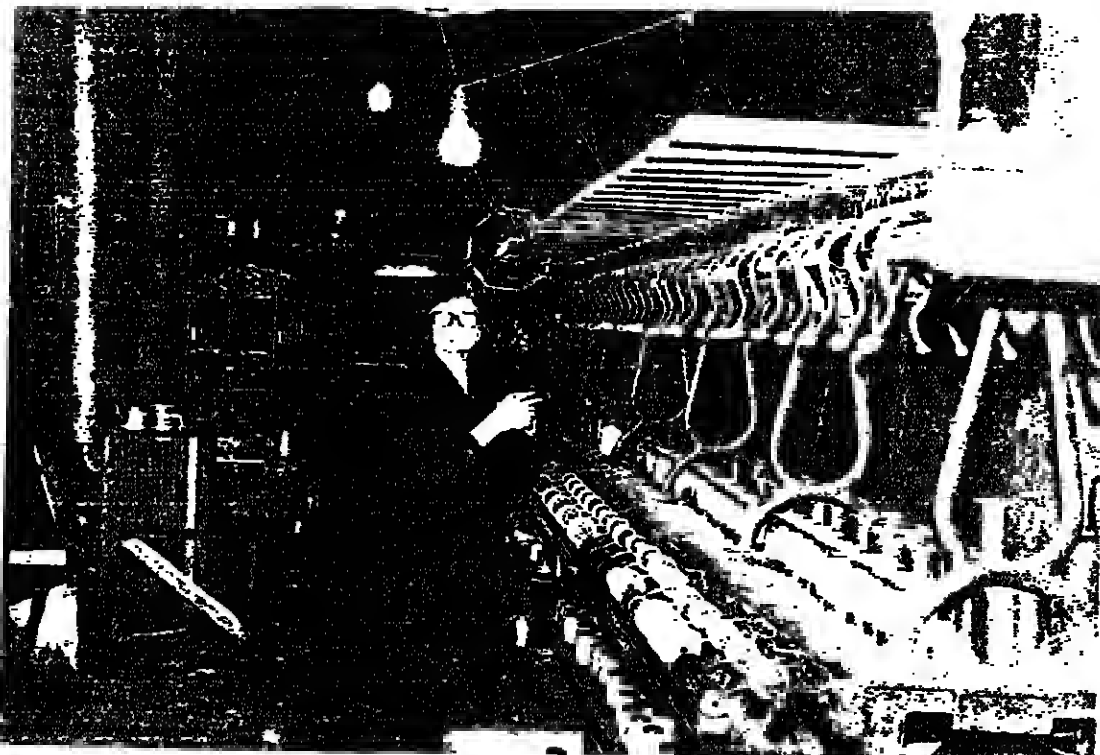
"This cottage industry was comprised of some 1,000 looms 15 years ago. Today there are about 30 such looms, but rayon and synthetic threads are used in combination with pure silk."

Beit Nassan does not claim to be the only factory still producing hand inlaid mother-of-pearl and wood mosaic furniture. Nonetheless, it probably is stocked with the largest collection of antique pieces of this type. Up to nine different varieties of wood, camel bone and mother-of-pearl are in the older pieces; whereas today's work is largely made of coloured plastic.

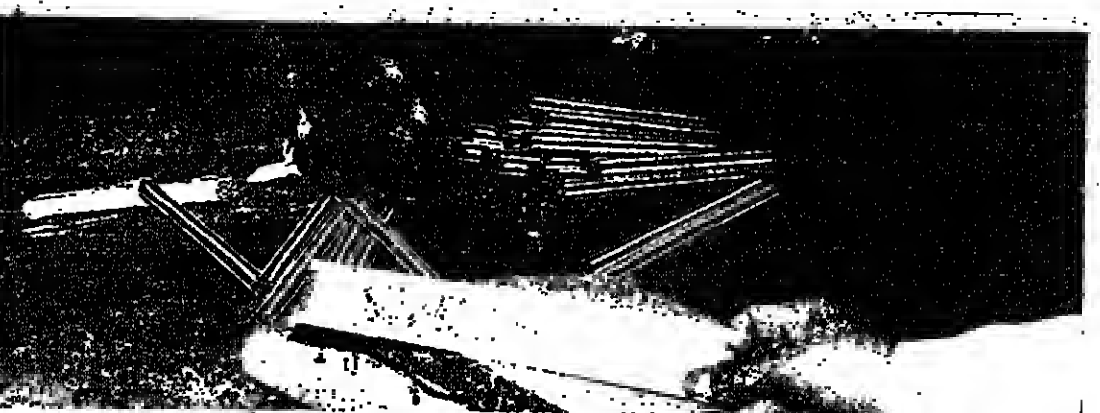
One antique table does everything but tapdance. It is, first of all, a stunning piece of furniture. When it is unfolded each successive layer of mosaic designs makes it suitable as a table for bridge, backgammon, chess or checkers. This particular game table, which sells for 3,800 Syrian pounds, contains lemo o, rosewood, olive, beech, walnut, cedar and mother-of-pearl.

Many of the employees at Beit Nassan are regarded almost like members of the family. An example is Habsi Abdu Daniel who has been manning the bobbin machines for 60 years. Another employee, Mohammad Namsi, has been rolling silk threads for 50 years.

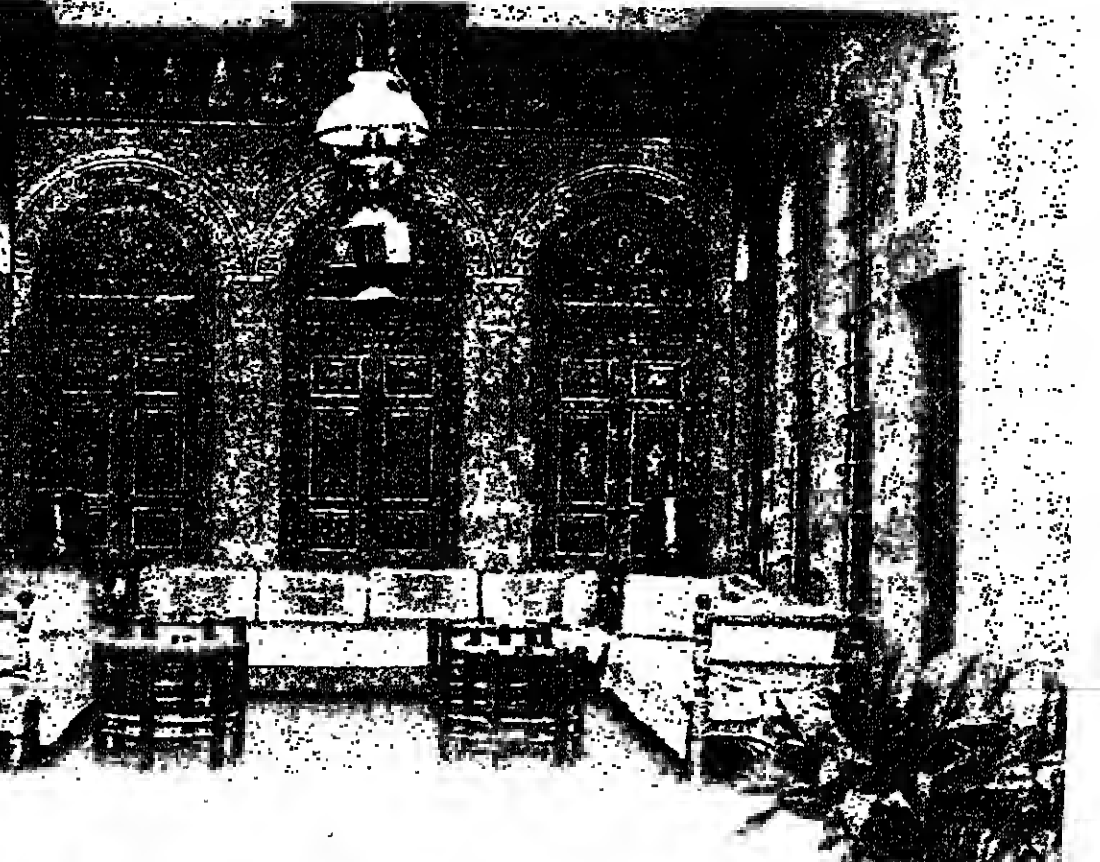
"The problem is their children didn't follow in their footsteps, they've become doctors, dentists and attorneys," said the spokesman, who, on this note, suggested that anyone who wants genuine Damascene silk had better visit Beit Nassan within the next five years.



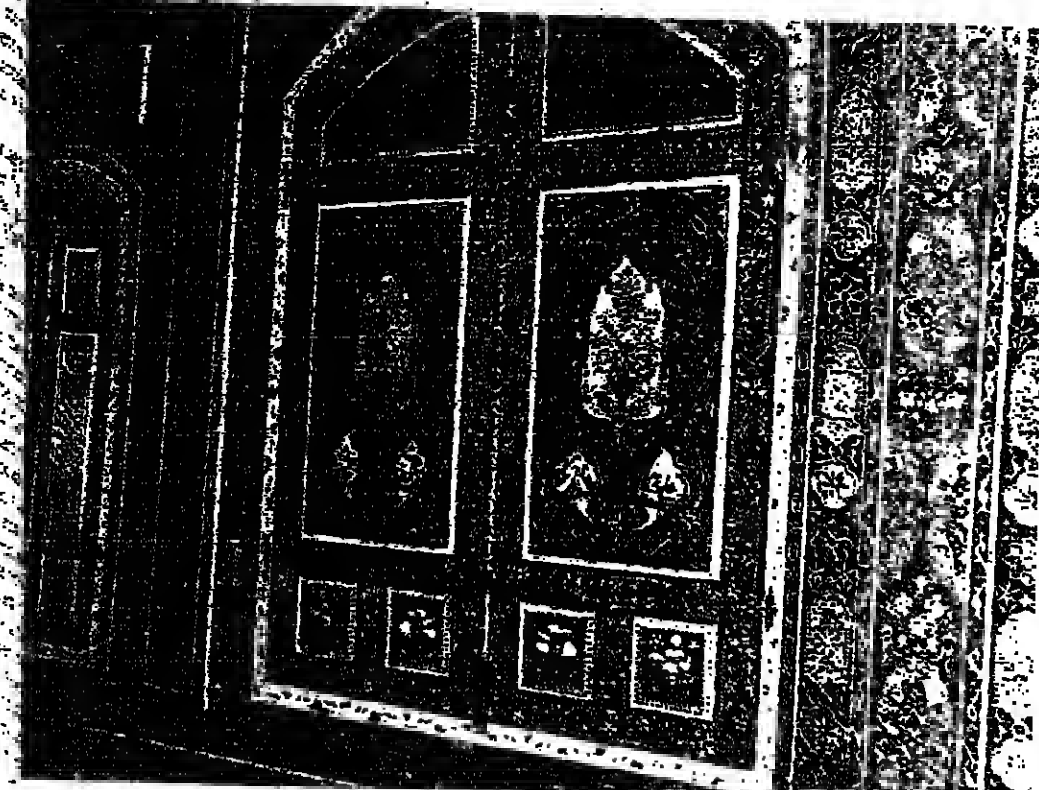
For 60 years Habsi Abdu Daniel has been watching over 70 bobbin machines in the silk factory of Beit Nassan.



Hand-inlaid mosaic wood furniture is assembled with individual sticks of wood (upper right) which are glued together in one cylinder (right) and then shaved in strips (center foreground) for final application on the wood frame. Fifteen persons assemble about 80 tables in 18 months.



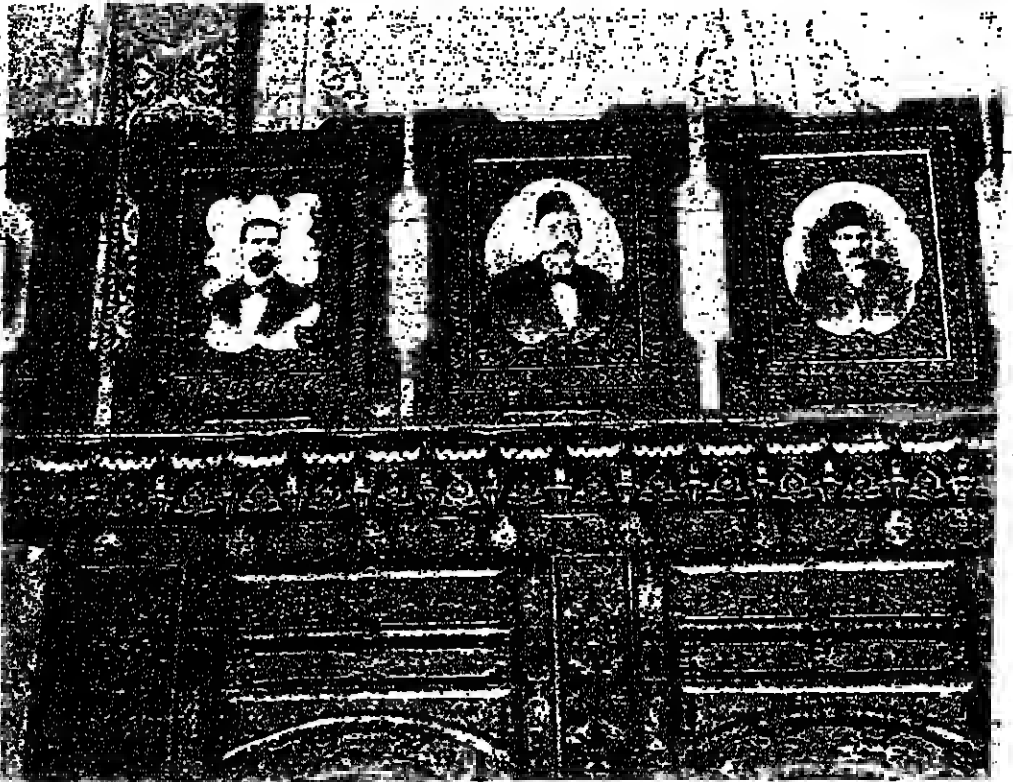
Diwan of Beit Nassan which is opened to visitors of state on special occasions.



Set-up of ornate wall panels in Beit Nassan. The doors underwent a major restoration in 1956, the late Damascene painter, Mohammad Amari, devoted five years to touching up the intricate designs of plaster-of-paris, paste and paint.



Men man a 50-year-old hand loom at Beit Nassan, Syria's only extant factory of hand woven Damascene silk.



Portraits of each successive patriarch of Nassan family--altering from Selim to to Selim--since 1866 dominate a salon flanking the diwan. The pictures of their wives are on the opposite wall. Three generations of the Nassan family live in the residence today.

IMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

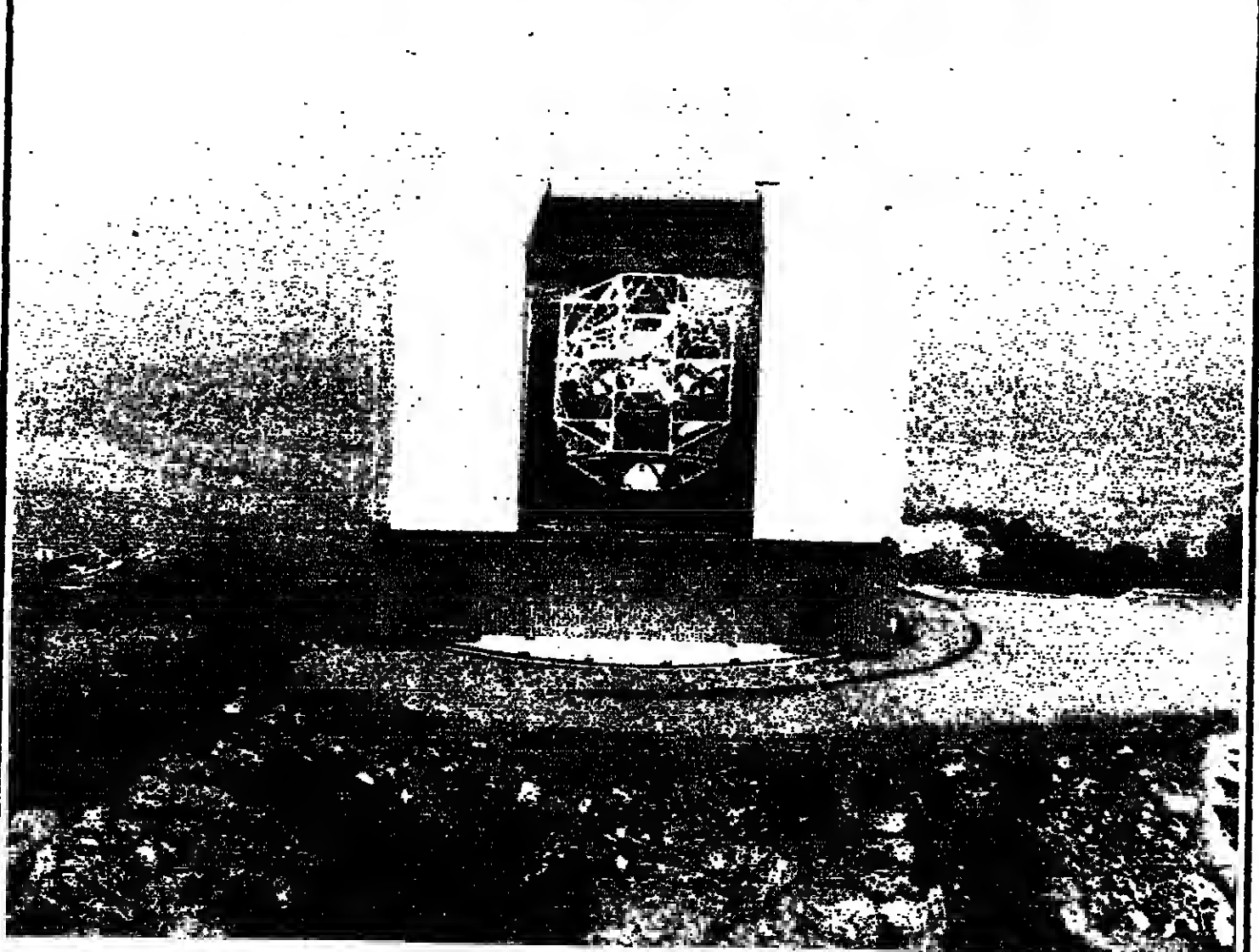
OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	1,299	6.700	6.750	6.700
Cement Factories	JD 10.000	2,088	—	14.000	13.850
Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5.000	30,297	24.300	25.000	24.300
Bank	JD 1.000	8,667	1.160	1.170	1.160
Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	3,255	1.050	1.060	1.050
Development and	—	—	—	—	—
Co.	JD 1.000	1,960	2.430	2.500	2.450
Aluminium Co.	JD 1.000	372	0.930	0.940	0.930
Union Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	100	—	—	1.000
Bank	JD 5.000	392	7.350	7.420	7.400
Investment Bank	JD 1.000	1,265	—	1.170	1.100
National Bank	JD 5.000	149	—	—	7.450
Imman Bank	JD 5.000	16,495	6.600	6.700	6.630
Brewery Co.	JD 1.000	165	—	—	1.650
International Hotels Co.	JD 1.000	140	—	0.700	0.700
Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1.000	331	0.780	—	0.720

Time traded, Saturday, April 2: JD 66,907
Number of shares traded: 17,984

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. sterling	614.00/618.00
West German mark	159.10/160.10
Swiss franc	175.30/175.40
French franc	69.20/69.60
Italian lire	—
Japanese yen	35.40/35.60
Dutch guilder	141.70/142.60
Belgian franc	147.50/148.40
for every ten	101.50/101.10
Swedish crown	68.00/68.40

First of a new generation



SKY SCANNER--Nearing completion atop Mount Hopkins in Arizona is the Multiple-Mirror Telescope, first of a new generation of giant optical instruments expected to add immensely to man's knowledge of the universe. The device uses a half dozen 1.8-metre mirrors, focussed by an internal laser tracking system, to gather as much light from distant space as a traditional 4.5 metre telescope. In the United

States, only the 5-metre Mount Palomar telescope in California is larger. The six small mirrors are cast, ground and mounted at about one-fourth the cost of one big one. A joint project of the University of Arizona and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Massachusetts, the new telescope is scheduled to be operational in early 1979. (ICA photo)

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rubstic wins Grand National

LIVERPOOL, England, April 2 (R) -- Rubstic -- Rubstic, who galloped on the beach all winter to escape the snow, stormed to a 25-1 victory in the Grand National at Aintree Saturday. But the world's most famous steeplechase was marred when two horses including Alverton, the favourite, were destroyed after falling. The huge crowd was unaware of Alverton's fate as they watched one of the most exciting finishes in the race's 141 year history. Five horses were almost level as they approached the final fence but jockey Maurice Barnes, in the "national" for the first time, drove Rubstic on to victory by a length and a half over 20-1 chance Zongulov, ridden by Bob Davies. Only seven of the 34 starters finished the four and a half mile (7,250 metre) race. Nine came down at the highest of the 20 fences on the course, "the chair" when those horses interfered with the runners.

Zambian wins boxing title

LUSAKA, April 2 (R) -- Lottie Mwale of Zambia won the Commonwealth light-heavyweight boxing title when he stopped holder Gary Summerhays in the fifth round here Saturday.

American wins tennis tournament

MILAN, Italy, April 2 (R) -- American John McEnroe continued his hot success story yesterday by winning both the singles and doubles titles in the World Championship Tennis (WCT) indoor tournament here.

Yugoslavia downs Cyprus in cup match

KRUSEVAC, Yugoslavia, April 2 (R) -- Holders Yugoslavia beat Cyprus 1-0 in their European Football Union (UEFA) under 21 cup match here yesterday. Yugoslavia were on top from the start but the Cypriot goalkeeper Kiri, in particular, defended superbly. The only goal came in the 50th minute from Yugoslav captain Vukobratovic who headed home from 12 metres after a corner by Smek. In a UEFA junior cup match in Port of Spain, Yugoslavia also beat Cyprus 1-0 to qualify for the final tournament. The goal came from Bazardevic only one minute before the end.

Former Commonwealth boxing champion dies

MELBOURNE, Australia, April 2 (AP) -- Former Commonwealth boxing champion Johnny O'Brien was killed in a car accident here Friday, police said Sunday. O'Brien, 42, a Scotsman, migrated to Australia about two years after he lost his Commonwealth title to the Australian champion, Johnny Farnham.

Boxers draw in junior flyweight title bout

SEOUL, April 2 (AP) -- Kim Sang-Joon of South Korea retained his World Boxing Council junior flyweight title Saturday with a

draw against Dominican challenger Hector Ray Melendez in a 15-round match at Moonhwa Gymnasium. At the end of the 9th, some 4,000 partisan fans booed the hometown champion, apparently disappointed over his unimpressive performance. In the 10th round, Kim, with his right eyebrow slightly swollen, came out aggressively, charging the challenger over the ropes a couple of times to the cheers of the crowd. A few explosive counterblows by the champion visibly slowed down Melendez' offensive, and Kim appeared to have earned points in the 10th and 11th rounds. In the last three rounds, both fighters seemed exhausted, but the Korean seemed to have a slight edge over the challenger with his combination blows to the body.

NBA basketball standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	52	25	.675	—
Philadelphia	45	34	.570	8
New Jersey	36	41	.468	16
New York	31	49	.388	22½
Boston	28	49	.364	24

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	45	33	.577	—
Houston	43	34	.558	1½
Atlanta	43	36	.544	2½
Cleveland	30	48	.385	15
Detroit	29	49	.372	16
New Orleans	25	54	.316	20½

Western Conference

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Kansas City	45	34	.570	—
Denver	44	34	.564	1
Milwaukee	37	42	.468	8
Indiana	36	43	.456	9
Chicago	29	50	.367	16

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	50	28	.641	—
Phoenix	48	30	.615	2
Los Angeles	44	33	.571	5½
Portland	44	34	.564	6
San Diego	42	37	.532	8½
Golden State	35	44	.443	15½

Clinched division, Sunday's games:

San Antonio 112, Boston 110; Philadelphia 112, Los Angeles 111; Washington 105, Denver 89; Cleveland 114, Houston 105; Portland 109, Milwaukee 107; Phoenix 116, Detroit 105; San Diego 126, New York 116; Seattle 102, Golden State 97; Atlanta 109, New Jersey 98.

London research helps find cause of rare disease

LONDON — Doctors in London have helped to pin down the cause of the muscular weakening disease myasthenia gravis. Their work is leading to new methods of treating the disease, and to a new understanding of other diseases which, like myasthenia gravis, are caused by an autoimmune reaction — by the body's immune system mistakenly reacting against some part of itself as though it were foreign tissue.

Myasthenia gravis is a relatively rare disease, existing outside the Western World where it can affect up to one in 10,000 of the population. The symptoms are fatigue and exhaustion after little physical effort.

Some years ago doctors discovered that blood serum taken from myasthenia gravis patients contains antibodies to the receptor sites on muscles which respond to signals from nerves. They also found that myasthenia patients have fewer of these receptor sites.

Antibodies are the protein compounds normally formed by white blood cells to neutralise foreign organisms or toxins entering the body. Muscle receptor sites respond to a chemical stimulus — that of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine — which is released from branching nerve endings embedded in the muscle end. The acetylcholine molecules fit into the receptor sites like keys into locks. They provide a very specific stimulus which makes the muscle contract in accordance with instructions sent, ultimately, from the brain.

For some reason — still unknown — it appears that myasthenia gravis patients form antibodies to the specific structures of their receptor sites as though these were foreign proteins.

Researchers went on to prove that these antibodies are the cause of the disease. They did

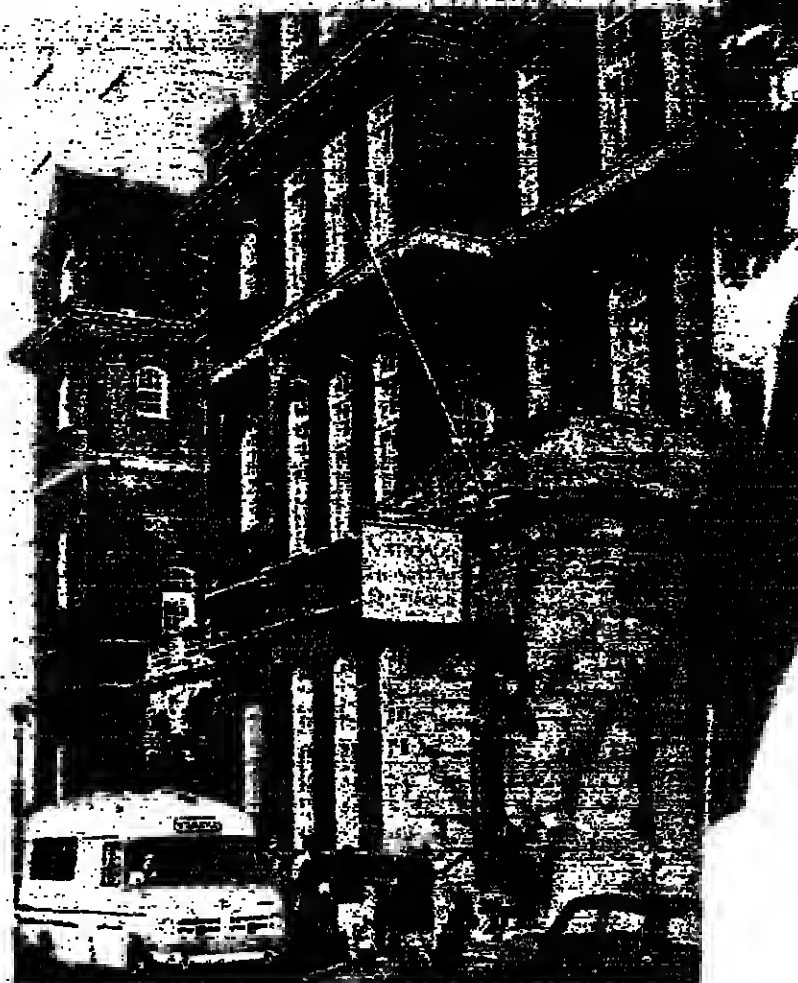
this by injecting serum from myasthenia gravis patients into mice, which promptly developed symptoms of the disease.

The next step was to see whether the antibodies were affecting the release of acetylcholine from the nerve endings, or its reception in the receptor sites. Doctors formed the theory that antibodies, by reacting with the receptor sites, might be blocking them. This would mean that even if acetylcholine was being released in normal quantities, much of it would be unable to stimulate the muscle to contract and acetylcholine molecules would be unable to enter blocked receptor sites. The reduced stimulus this would cause would account for the muscular weakness and fatigue characteristic of the disease.

This theory has now received further support by research workers at University College and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London. They have demonstrated that acetylcholine is released normally in myasthenia gravis patients but the numbers of receptors able to receive it is reduced — thus confirming earlier work by American researchers.

The researchers actually measured the reduction in numbers of unblocked receptor sites. They took a sample of muscle tissue from a patient and treated it with a snake venom, the venom was alpha bungarotoxin, a poison which kills because the venom molecules, like the autoimmune antibodies, fit into the muscle receptor sites and prevent any stimulus being received, thus paralysing and killing the victim.

The molecules of alpha bungarotoxin — tagged with radioactivity so that their movements could be followed — found far fewer receptor sites to fit into than normal in muscle



The National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London where research is taking place into the causes of myasthenia gravis. (LPS photo)

from a myasthenia gravis patient.

The London researchers went on to show that acetylcholine had a much less stimulating effect on muscle from a myasthenia gravis patient than on a normal person. Samples of healthy human muscle showed the same lessening of response when treated with serum from myasthenia gravis patients.

Put together with earlier work, these different strands of evidence amount to proof that it is the release of autoimmune antibodies and their blocking of receptor sites which causes the symptoms of myasthenia gravis.

That is not the end of the story. Unfortunately, it seems likely that the antibodies not only remain for a while in the receptor sites — they actively damage and destroy them. But treatments exist, and the new knowledge, and more research

based on it, should lead to improvements.

One technique is to give patient drugs which prevent breakdown of acetylcholine. This means blockage of receptor sites is partially compensated by increased levels of the neurotransmitter to still available. Another approach is to give drugs to suppress the activity of the immune system, thus including production of immune antibodies. The disadvantage of this is resistance to infection.

A third treatment, which gives some very good results, consists of exchanging much as possible of a patient's blood plasma. Fresh plasma contains antibodies. After four or five such plasma exchanges of the harmful antibodies have been removed. (London Press Service)

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كندا في الأردن

Rhodesia mobilises civilian reserves up to 60 years of age

SALISBURY, Rhodesia, April 2, (AP) — Rhodesia's military is mobilising civilian reserves up to 60 years of age in preparation for black majority rule elections later this month.

In a related development, worried parents of more than 50 children are planning to evacuate them to neighbouring South Africa during the election period, the Rand Daily Mail newspaper reported today in Johannesburg. It said the Rhodesian Rotary Club was handling the evacuation.

Some 600 reservists were ordered over the weekend to report for military duty this week and an undetermined number of civilian men aged 50 to 60 were given medical examinations to determine whether they are fit for duty.

The mobilisation began as black guerrillas launched another rocket

and small arms attack against the big fuel depot in the heart of Salisbury's industrial area last night.

No damage or injuries were reported, police said, in the latest insurgent raid on the depot, which was almost destroyed last December when rockets set millions of gallons of fuel ablaze.

Guerrilla leaders have vowed to sabotage the elections this month, claiming that black candidates are simply "stooges" who will let Rhodesia's white minority continue 90 years of white domination from behind the scenes.

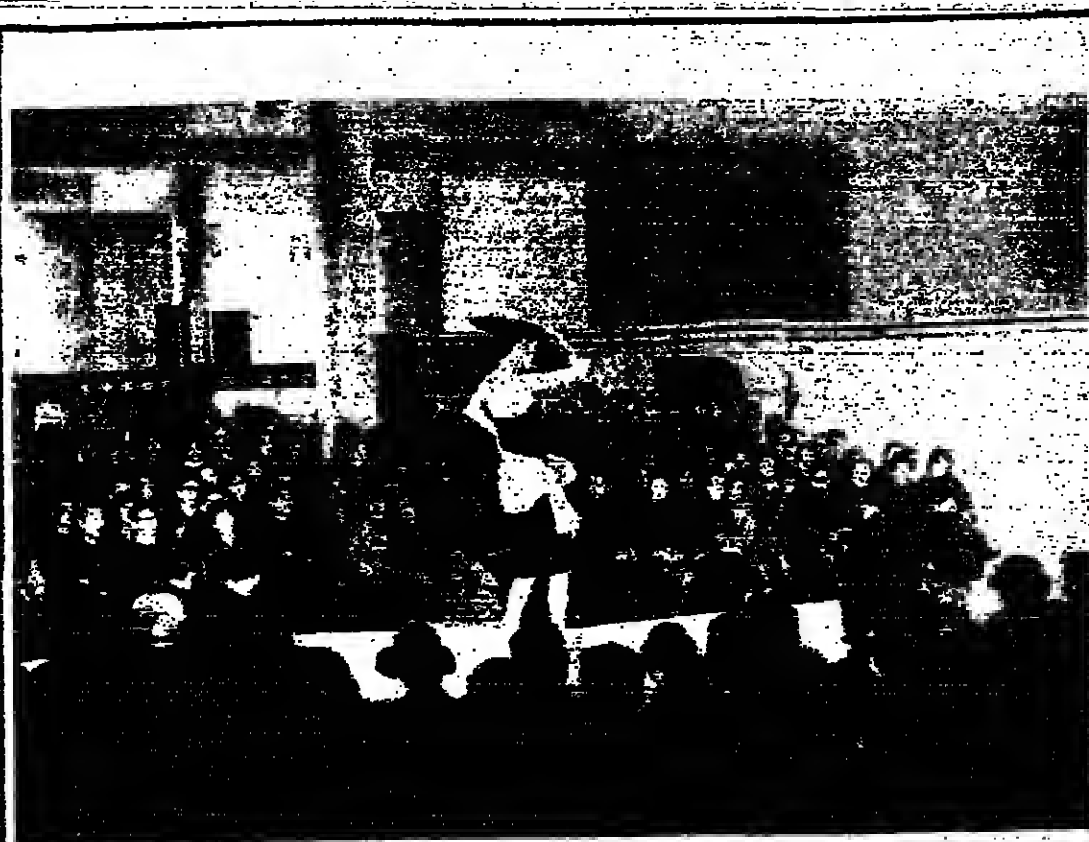
Police have said "a very great blanket of security" will be thrown over all urban centres during the

election period to protect women and children while the men are on military duty.

The exact dates of the election are being kept secret for security reasons, but observers say the voting is expected to begin on April 17 and end on April 20.

Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the country's supreme military commander, warned yesterday that April is the key point. "We are now entering a phase which is more crucial than any other," he said.

Hotels, hurt by a drop in tourism after two civilian aircrafts were downed by guerrilla fire, have filled up as hundreds of foreign journalists began arriving here for the election.



Peking show-stopper: Fashions by Cardin

Couturier Pierre Cardin obtained great success among the guests at his recent 1979 presentation in one of Peking's big hotels. (Gamma photo)

World New Briefs

Giscard d'Estaing to visit USSR this month
MOSCOW, April 2 (AP) — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's state visit to the Soviet Union has been rescheduled to 26-28, the Soviet news agency Tass reported today. The president's original visit, slated for March 29-31, was canceled last minute after Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev came down with a serious bout of influenza, sources said. The 73-year-old leader's latest illness fueled fresh speculation among Westerners in Moscow over Mr. Brezhnev's health. But the new Giscard d'Estaing visit indicates that Kremlin officials want Brezhnev to recover from his illness by then.

Portugal protests execution in Mozambique

LISBON, April 2 (R) — Portugal has protested to Mozambique over the execution of one of its nationals as an alleged Rhodesian mercenary. Foreign Minister said yesterday. A Ministry spokesman said that a 35-year-old Mr. Rui Manuel Nunes da Silva, Mozambique with Portuguese citizenship, was executed two days ago after being found guilty at a two-day trial of treason and sabotage. He said it had vigorously protested and had asked the authorities why the Portuguese ambassador in Mozambique allowed to visit the condemned man. Portugal, which for the territory, warned that the behaviour of Mozambique grave implications for future relations between the two also sought assurances that in future all Portuguese Mozambique prisoners would receive Portuguese consular

Pope lashes out at recent acts of violence

VATICAN CITY, April 2 (AP) — Pope John Paul II lashed out at what he called recent "episodes of crime" which took place in Rome, London, Holland and Spain, in somber tones a throng of 100,000 convened in St. Peter's for his noon blessing, the Pontiff said in Italian. "The criminal violence which have taken place recently in Rome, Holland, Spain and elsewhere have caused deep bitterness to all those who have Christian feelings of respect for life of God," Vatican officials said the Pope was referring to of British Ambassador to the Hague Sir Richard Sykes, member of the British Parliament Mr. Airey Neave and Scherini, a Christian democrat member of Rome's parliament. His words were also interpreted as referring to a former mayor of Bilbao, Spain, by Basque separatists express my deep deploration," the Pope said. "for the atrocious crimes that offend man's dignity and honour everybody understand that it is not through hatred and a just and well-established society can be constructed."

Japanese group begins anti-nuclear campaign

TOKYO, April 2 (AP) — A group of ten environmental anti-nuclear power plant campaign yesterday following reactor accident at Three Mile Island Power Plant in Pennsylvania. In downtown Tokyo, the group appealed to passers-by campaign for an immediate halt to the operation of all plants in Japan. The environmentalists told passers-by that in the United States showed that nuclear reactors "No one can deny the possibility that a similar accident happen in Japan," as Japan now has 19 nuclear power plants. A group spokesman said the group will send 14 Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and presidents of companies, urging them to suspend the operation of power plants and scrap all plans to build nuclear power plants. Meanwhile, the group will ask about 300 of mentalist and consumer organisations throughout the country to join the campaign.

Author of banned H-bomb article give 2 'compelling reasons' for publication

NEW YORK, April 2 (R) — The author of an article on the hydrogen bomb, banned for publication by a federal judge, today listed what he called two compelling reasons why the article should be published. Mr. Howard Morland, author of "The H-bomb Secret," prepared for The Progressive magazine, made his assertion in a guest column for Newsweek. The U.S. Government acted to restrain The Progressive, based in Madison, Wisconsin, from publishing Mr. Morland's article, for "national security" reasons. "There are two compelling reasons not to submit to censorship," Mr. Morland wrote. "One is that it is urgently important to uphold the principle of freedom from government interference with public debate, and the other is that the information itself is essential to understanding nuclear weapons."

104 Viet refugees drown off Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (R) — A crowded Vietnamese refugee boat overturned, drowning 104 people, as it was being towed out to sea by a Malaysian police patrol vessel on Saturday, a United Nations agency said today.

The boat had been denied permission to land on Malaysia's east coast although ten people had died on the hazardous voyage from Vietnam.

The Asian representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Rajagopal Samthap Kumar, said it was an unnecessary tragedy and he would make strong representations to the government in Kuala Lumpur.

There were 217 people on board the craft when it capsized off Mersing Port in Malaysia's

Italy dissolves parliament

ROME, April 2 (R) — Italian President Sandro Pertini today dissolved parliament following the defeat of Mr. Giulio Andreotti's government in a senate vote of confidence, a presidential spokesman said. He was expected to announce the date for an early general election tomorrow.

The 82-year-old president

OPEC oil price increase goes into effect

GENEVA, April 2 (R) — The average price of OPEC oil rises by about 17 per cent as of yesterday, adding an estimated \$23 billion a year to the world's oil imports bill, according to oil market estimates.

The European Economic Community (EEC) alone is expected to pay at least an extra \$7 billion a year for its oil imports as a result of arrangements worked out by the world's leading oil exporters six days ago.

And the total cost is likely to be substantially higher when new prices are announced for oil from

non-OPEC sources such as the North Sea and Mexico.

The sources said these oils were normally priced above the most expensive OPEC oils, and were expected to fetch about \$19 a barrel compared with the new OPEC official price of \$14.54.

The 13 member-states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided last Tuesday to bring forward to April 1 a price increase originally due to take effect six months later.

OPEC also decided that members were free to charge a "market premium" to take advantage of the substantial difference between the official and market prices—caused by a shortfall in supplies from Iran, normally OPEC's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani told reporters here his country, which accounts for a third of OPEC oil, was against the surcharges and would not impose any.

But all the other 12 OPEC states are imposing various premiums which in effect will add between just under \$1 to \$4 a barrel to the price of their oil.

Oil market sources said this would bring the average increase in the price of a barrel of OPEC oil from April 1 to about \$2.30, 17 per cent above official first quarter prices.

Japan, which imports about five million barrels of oil a day, would

have to put up an extra \$4 billion in a full year. The United States, with double Japan's imports, would have to find \$8 billion at a time when its trade deficit this year was officially forecast at \$25 billion, the sources said.

The market had already eased before the Geneva conference but very little oil was on offer, with traders awaiting the results of the OPEC meeting, the sources said.

But even before the conference ended, traders milling with reporters in the conference lobby said they would be prepared to pay more than \$19 for the "top of the barrel", the highest quality light OPEC crudes such as those produced by Algeria and the Libyan Jamahiriya. Both states have imposed surcharges which put their prices at about \$18.50 a barrel.

Urban guerrillas behind train robbery in Italy?

FABRI, Italy, April 2 (R) — Train robbers who stole \$1 million worth of gold and platinum from the Milan-Rome express two days ago in a brilliantly planned operation could have been urban guerrillas, police said yesterday.

In one of the most technically perfect crimes ever committed in Italy, the thieves stopped the train by changing a signal from green to red using a sophisticated electronic device.

They unhooked the rear five carriages, sent the rest of the train on its way by switching the signal back to green, then overpowered two guards and took between 20 and 30 sacks of gold and platinum due to be airfreighted abroad.

One of the guards, who were injected with a drug to put them to sleep, was quoted as saying that

the robbers claimed they were from the Red Brigades, Italy's most notorious urban guerrilla group.

Police said they could not exclude the possibility that the robbery was organised by a guerrilla group, and added that the hold-up required a high level of expertise.

The robbers struck as the express came through rolling hills near the hilltop town of Orvieto. They stopped it just outside a tunnel, unhooked the last five cars—the postal van and four cattle trucks—of the 22-car train and switched the signal back green.

The express took off into the dark tunnel and it was only when it had gathered full speed again a few kilometres later that the driver realised that his load was suddenly lighter.

Activists denounce China's propaganda ban

PEKING, April 2 (R) — Political activists yesterday angrily denounced the Chinese authorities for attempting to curb the country's human rights and democracy campaign.

Responding to the ban on anti-communist propaganda, one activist group said in a statement it proved the government was not interested in democratic freedom.

Exploration magazine, one of a number of stencilled newspapers which have emerged in the past few months, said the authorities wanted to suppress publications and writers who did not conform to Marxism and socialism.

"This only demonstrates to the whole world that the Chinese Government does not want any democratic freedom and that the

so-called true democracy and freedom which they talk about is only an order to the Chinese people to bolster the prestige of the authorities which are in power," Exploration said.

"Any criticism is fiercely suppressed, contrary to socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat. So much for the democratic freedom of the Chinese Government. What hypocritical!" the magazine said.

The ban on anti-communist propaganda followed the arrest of activist Wei Jingsheng last Thursday. Sources said he had been charged with being a counter-revolutionary—China's most serious offence.

Mr. Wei, 30, who wrote one of the most celebrated posters to appear on Peking's "democracy wall," was the second activist to have been detained since open public debate began four months ago.

The ban was seen as reflecting official concern that the free speech campaign and calls for human rights and democracy had gone too far.

Yesterday's issue of the Peking Daily made it clear that "democracy wall" was now the only place where wall posters were permitted. Elsewhere, the posters have been removed by the authorities.

The Peking Daily carried a front-page picture of a water truck hosing down posters in Tien An Men Square in the city centre. There also was a photograph of a

group of smiling people reading an earlier edition containing the new restrictions.

The paper carried interviews with approving officials of the Peking Federation of Trade Unions, the municipal committee of the Youth League and the city's Women's Federation.

A letter from a reader on the front page said some who "pose as spokesmen of the people are really most unpopular" and criticised "the few who used the pretext of 'democracy' to disrupt normal work and cause trouble."

Another front page report quoted peasants of a commune on the city outskirts as saying the new regulations were "most timely and appropriate."

Economic News Briefs

Lufthansa signs contract for 25 Airbuses

COLOGNE, West Germany, April 2 (R) — The West German airline Lufthansa today signed a contract for 25 European A-310 Airbuses at a cost of \$800 million. Lufthansa has also taken an option for a further 25 A-310s, which seat 200 passengers. The five-nation Airbus consortium will deliver the planes between 1983 and 1990. The Airbus Industrie consortium groups leading aircraft builders in France, West Germany and Britain as main partners, with firms from Holland and Spain also participating. The Lufthansa order is another big boost to the wide-bodied European airliner which has faced stiff competition from American aircraft companies. The breakthrough came in the United States last year when Eastern Airlines bought 20 Airbus and took options on 20 more in a \$780 million contract. Last month, Swissair signed a contract to buy ten Airbuses with an option on 10 more. The twin-engined aircraft now has a good commercial base, particularly in Europe and Asia with some 25 companies using or ordering them.

Romania, China aid Burundi's development

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, April 2 (AP) — A five-year joint Burundi-Romania agriculture development plan has just been launched in an area bordering Lake Tanganyika. The plan is aimed at increasing production of corn, peanuts, soybeans, cotton, coffee and milk on 7,000 hectares. A joint company has been set up by Romania and the Burundi Government. Romania will supply farm equipment and a maintenance shop. Burundi will provide buildings and some equipment. China is also taking part in the development of Burundi, with some 1,000 technicians now in the country. Chinese are completing a textile plant due to start operating early next year. Its full capacity will be nine million metres of textile material a year, using 2,100 tons of local cotton production. Chinese are also taking part in the construction of a hydro-electric plant on River Mugere, 20 kilometres south of Bujumbura, also due to be in operation next year. Burundi now has to import electric power from neighbouring Zaire. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its gross national product is about \$120 per person annually.

Japan to give Central African Empire \$2.36 m.

TOKYO, April 2 (AP) — Japan has agreed to provide the Central African Empire with 500 million yen (\$2.36 million) in free aid to buy road construction equipment, the Foreign Ministry announced today. The announcement said a note on the aid was exchanged in Bangui between Deputy Japanese Ambassador to the Central African Empire Shoji Komachi and the Empire's Deputy Minister of Planning Simon Narcisse Bozanga. Industrial development in the African nation has been hindered by a lack of adequate transportation facilities.

China said interested in diesel engine plant

SINGAPORE, April 2 (AP) — China is interested in setting up a plant to manufacture diesel engines, Mr. Keith Mazurek, president of the components group of International Harvester, said here today. "The Chinese have shown a lot of interest in our firm designing and tooling an engine plant that would manufacture about 100,000 diesel engines gradually to be used as part of construction equipment, agricultural equipment and in trucks," he said. "We have sent a team to China and are holding discussions with the Chinese," he added. He told a news conference that a subsidiary has been set up in Singapore to provide parts for the Harvester range of construction, agricultural and transport equipment to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Hong Kong, Korea, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Burma and the Philippines. The parent company has won a contract to supply construction and agricultural equipment costing \$2.5 million to Laos. He also said his firm would be interested in doing business with Vietnam if there is normalisation of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam.

Scandal of India's 'under trials'

By R.K. Sharma

NEW DELHI—Indians were stunned a couple of months ago when a member of the Police Commission revealed that thousands of men, women and children of all ages had been in jail for periods up to ten years without ever being sentenced.

Most of them are illiterate and without any money, and that seems to be the main reason for their detention. Having been arrested by police on some charge, they cannot find anyone to stand bail for them, so they must rot in jail until they are sentenced or freed—and this process takes an inordinately long time in India.

At least when Mrs. Indira Gandhi threw thousands of her political opponents in jail in June 1975, she was acting legally. The Maintenance of Internal Security Act, or MISA as the notorious and much-abused law is known, was invoked by the former Indian prime minister for the mass "preventive detention" with which she began her emergency rule.

No such law exists to excuse the present incarceration of an estimated 82,000 people in the country's 1,219 overcrowded jails. The unfortunate "under trials", as

they are known in official parlance, have been waiting for years for the criminal charges under which they were originally arrested to be heard. In the case of some, even the authorities do not know what the original charge was—they have been in jail and remain there because no one has bothered about them.

Without any money to furnish bail, and lacking friends or relatives to stand surety for them, the thousands of "under trials" had little hope until Mr. K.J. Rustomji, a member of the Police Commission, wrote about his findings in two jails in the violence-racked state of Bihar. His harrowing account moved a woman lawyer, Mrs. Pushpa Kapila Hingorani, to intercede on their behalf. Finding an obscure legal precedent, she filed habeas corpus petitions on behalf of 17 "under trials" in Bihar. The Supreme Court promptly ordered their release.

Later, also at Mrs. Hingorani's instance, the Supreme Court ordered the central government administration in New Delhi and eight state governments to release immediately all prisoners who were in jail without trial for periods that exceeded the maximum sentence they would have

The return of democracy has done little to ease the plight of an estimated 82,000 people languishing in Indian jails, some of whom have been awaiting trial for ten years. There are cases where the original charge has been forgotten.

got if convicted. The court ruled: "Such a detention is clearly illegal and in violation of the fundamental rights of the Constitution."

Since it is the fundamental right of any Indian to obtain a speedy trial if arrested on a criminal charge, the Supreme Court further ruled that anyone who had been jailed for periods exceeding half the maximum punishment they might eventually have got should be released by magistrates on personal bonds.

This gives the "under trials" some hope. But how effective the Supreme Court ruling will be remains to be seen. The Bihar State Government delayed the release of the 17 for whom the habeas corpus petition was successfully made. The "under trials"

are usually destitute and illiterate with no knowledge of legal procedure. So it is quite possible that unless someone takes an interest in them, they may well continue to languish in jail.

Mr. Rustomji's accounts of the plight of the "under trials" shows the judicial system has no respect for age, sex or the nature of the offence. For instance, Mr. Gulam Rai is 80 years old and has been in Mazafarpur jail in Bihar for ten years. "If he were to be let out of jail, he would probably die of shock," says Mr. Rustomji. Another inmate, Mr. Lalji Pande, has also been there for ten years on a charge of kidnapping a girl—who is also in the same jail. They now want to get married, but this is impossible until the law takes its course.

An aged woman, Miss Jhagrimusma Koiri, has been in jail for nine years after being arrested on a charge of attempted murder. For seven years she had her son with her until he died at the age of 13. Miss Janki Devi, an "untouchable" girl whom Mr. Rustomji describes as a "dark beauty, frightened, shy, despairing," has been in jail for seven years on a charge of infanticide. With her is her eight-year-old son, who has spent almost his entire life in jail.

Even more tragic is the case of Miss Iwari Ahir, a woman who does not know why she is in jail. Nor do the jail authorities. She is police say, vaguely that she was imprisoned because she did not answer a summons to appear in court. For this unproved offence, she has spent five years in prison. So far, her four-year-old daughter lives with her in jail and has never known any other home. "Some of them look as if they have been youngsters wandering over the country, from town to town, and the law has locked them up because the number of cases had to be brought up to a specified level," says Mr. Rustomji. Among the "under trials" are political prisoners—

the extreme case of "Naxalites", after they started a process against which has been dropped in has never judicial.

The country's genetic, partly, is overcrowded by 1960, for every 1 were 50 awaiting trial. In 1967, this proportion was 100 to 1. But in 1978, for every 100 there were 100 awaiting trial.

The problem is as many as 4.4 cases pending in all over India. In some states, a step has been taken to state government have been youngsters wandering over the country, from town to town, and the law has locked them up because the number of cases had to be brought up to a specified level," says Mr. Rustomji. Among the "under trials" are political prisoners—